Tygarts Valley Conservation District

EQIP – Environmental Ranking Criteria 2005

Points can only be earned when there is an environmental concern to be addressed by the implementation of a Conservation Management System. If the applicant is already doing the conservation practice, that eliminates an environmental concern and points will not be assigned. Points will be awarded as written on the worksheet and not arbitrarily reduced. Practices completed on the tracts that have received prior cost share can not be awarded points or additional cost share.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

FSN _____ TRACT_____

Limited Resource Farmer: YES or NO **Circle one**
Beginning Farmer: YES or NO **Circle one**

Environmental Ranking Criteria Points

1.____ Convert Class 7 land being used as grassland to forestland. **10 pts. Maximum** (Points based on percentage of land being converted. 1 pt. per 10% of land converted.)

2.____ Develop sources of drinking water for livestock in order to reduce animal waste related problems to improve surface water quality. **10 pts.**

3.____Improve surface water quality by implementing stream crossings for livestock or equipment. Stream must have livestock excluded. **10 pts.**

4.____Reduce compaction, improve regeneration, and develop proper stand population on the forest landscape by excluding livestock. **10 pts. Maximum** (1 pt. per 10% of forest land being excluded.)

____SUB-TOTAL

5.____Improve water quality and provide for better utilization of animal waste nutrients by relocating existing concentrated winter feeding areas. (Standard Code 757 Animal Use Area Protection. Utilization plan required.)

Points will be awarded as follows: (Minimum filter strip required by standard must be met.)

Distance from concentrated flow area or stream:
100 – 200 ft = 3 pts, 200 – 300 ft = 6pts, 300 – 400 ft = 9 pts,
400 – 500 ft = 12 pts, >500 ft = 15 pts

5A.____Implementation of a winter feeding system to rotate hay feeders on an established schedule to prevent accumulation of manure and exposed soil and sediment. Feeding sites must be a minimum of 50 ft from streams. **20 pts.**

6.____Reduce surface water contamination by constructing a waste storage facility. (Refer to Animal Waste Facility Standard in Technical Guide, Section IV. **10 pts.**

7.____Improve soil quality, reduce erosion, improve animal health, by developing and implementing a prescribed grazing plan. Producers must be given management worksheet so they understand the requirements of this practice.

Points will be awarded as follows:

9 days/area = 10 pts. For managed continuous grazing on 1-2 paddocks = $5/ac/yr for 3 yrs.

5-8 days/area = 20 pts. For rotational grazing on 3-5 paddocks = $10/ac/yr for 3 yrs.

1-4 days/area = 30 pts. For management of intensive grazing on 6 or more paddocks = $20/ac/yr for 3 yrs.

7A.____Nutrient management, a soil test will be required and is to be presented to the NRCS office. Application of lime and fertilizer will be based on the WVU soil test recommendations, the forage species and the stocking rate of livestock. The maximum number of acres eligible for soil amendment cost share on any contract will be capped at 25% of the eligible grazing land or 40 ac., which ever is greater. **20 pts.**

____SUB-TOTAL

8.____Improve surface water quality by establishing a filter strip/buffer area. (Between water resource and cropland, pastureland or feedlot.) **10 pts. Maximum** (1 pt/10% of stream receiving filter strip.) Refer to Standard in Section IV of Technical Guide for width of filter.

9.____Divert overland flow or overhead flow of clean water from existing permanent concentrated livestock feeding areas. (e.g., diversions, gutters, etc.) **10 pts**.

10.____Reduce Ephemeral/gully erosion. Use predominate soil type for the farm/field.

Reduce average erosion > 1000 ft^3/yr. = **20 pts.**
Reduce average erosion 1000 -500 ft^3/yr. = **15 pts.**
Reduce average erosion 500 -300 ft^3/yr. = **10 pts.**
Reduce average erosion <300 ft^3/yr. = **5 pts.**

____TOTAL POINTS